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URBAN DISTRICT  
OF  
KNOTTINGLEY

---

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

**1955**

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U R B A N   D I S T R I C T

O F

K N O T T I N G L E Y

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

O F   T H E

M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H

F O R   T H E   Y E A R

1 9 5 5

B Y

J.   F.   F R A S E R

M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.



Medical Officer's Section,  
Health Department,  
Baghill House,  
Walkergate,  
Pontefract.

To The Chairman and Members of the Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

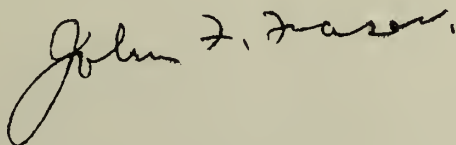
I have the honour to present for your information and consideration a Report on the Health and Health Services of the Urban District during the year 1955.

The Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District, Housing and the Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies, is complementary to this Report.

For your information certain details of the personal health services administered by the County Council are included.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John F. Mason'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'J'.

Medical Officer of Health.



KNOTTINGLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL - 1955.

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Chairman: Cr. A. Reynolds, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: Cr. R.P. Wilson.

Cr. S. Burton

Cr. P. Gross

Cr. J. Hannar

Cr. E. Hodgson

Cr. M. Nunns

Cr. E. Raw

Cr. H. Rose

Cr. T.C. Askin

Cr. J.T.D. Beaumont

Cr. J. Shay

Cr. W. Piper

Cr. S.V. White

Cr. D. Pettitt

Clerk to the Council:

S.D. Hill, Esq.,

Medical Officer of Health:

John F. Fraser, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

Sanitary Inspector

Leslie Barber, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.





P A R T   O N E  
STATISTICS   AND   SOCIAL   CONDITIONS.

Area of the District: 2,837 acres.  
Population, mid-year, Registrar-General's estimate: 10,630.  
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1955: 3,370.  
Rateable value: 1955 - £50,593. 1954 - £50,593.  
Product of penny rate: 1955: £201.8.4. 1954: £191.11.2.  
These figures show a population increase of 110.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The figures in brackets are the corresponding ones for 1954.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	92 (81)	118 (105)	210 (186)
Illegitimate	<u>4 ( 5)</u>	<u>4 ( 3)</u>	<u>8 ( 8)</u>
Total	<u>96 (86)</u>	<u>122 (108)</u>	<u>218 (194)</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population: 20.5 (18.4)  
Percentage of illegitimate live births: 3.66 (4.12)

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	- (3)	3 (-)	3 (3)
Illegitimate	<u>1 (1)</u>	<u>- (-)</u>	<u>1 (1)</u>
Total	<u>1 (4)</u>	<u>3 (-)</u>	<u>4 (4)</u>

Rate per 1,000 (live and still births) 18.0 (20.2)  
Rate per 1,000 estimated population: .38 (.38)

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
All age groups	44 (45)	46 (34)	90 (79)
Infants under 1 yr.	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2 (4)	3 (2)	5 (6)
Illegitimate	<u>- (1)</u>	<u>- (-)</u>	<u>- (1)</u>
Total	<u>2 (5)</u>	<u>3 (2)</u>	<u>5 (7)</u>

Maternal Deaths. NIL (NIL)



Death Rates.

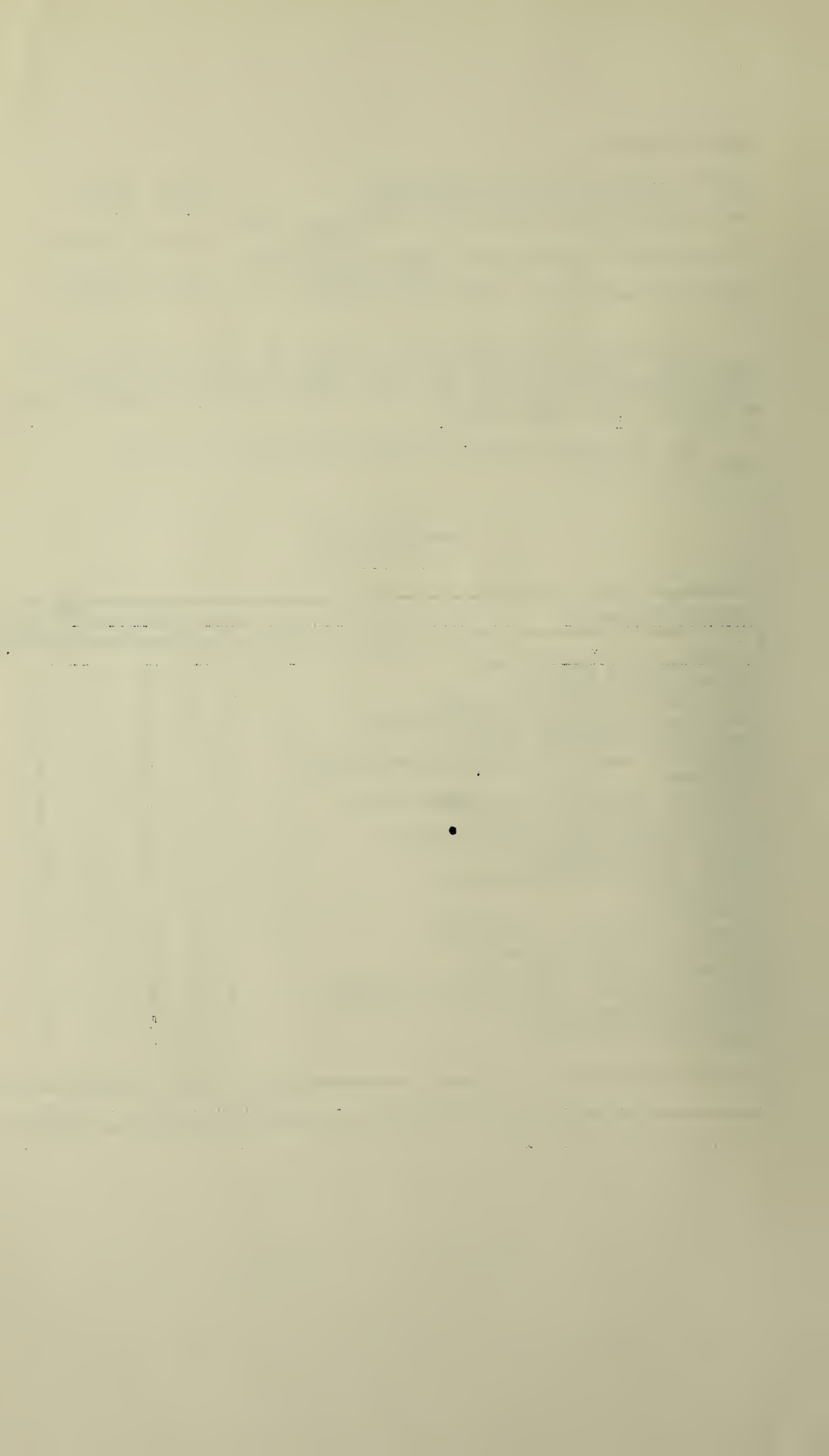
General rate per 1,000 population	8.5	(7.5)
All infants per 1,000 live births	22.9	(36.1)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	23.80	(32.25)
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	NIL	(125.0)
Maternal deaths per 1,000 live & still births	NIL	(NIL)

The number of births has increased by 24 as compared with last year, and the birth rate has risen from 18.4 to 20.5. Deaths have increased by 11. The infant mortality rate is 22.9 as against 36.1 last year.

The principal causes of death are set out in the following table.

T A B L E I.

Cause of Death:	Male	Female	Total.
Tuberculosis Respiratory	-	-	-
Tuberculosis Other	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	-	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	-	1	1
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	4	8
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	2	4	6
Coronary Disease, Angina	3	5	8
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	-	1
Other Heart Diseases	11	6	17
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	1	2
Pneumonia	1	5	6
Bronchitis	7	3	10
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	-	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1
Congenital Malformations	1	1	2
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	7	5	12
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1
All Other Accidents	3	2	5
Suicide	1	-	1
	45	45	90



Infant Mortality.

The following Table gives causes of infant deaths during 1955, classified into age groups.

T A B L E    II.

									All ages under 1yr.		
	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	1-3 mth	3-6 mth	6-9 mth	9-12 mth	M.	F.	T.
Tuberculous Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
Prematurity	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Anencephalus	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Congenital Debility	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Broncho- pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	3	5

Three deaths occurred in hospital, which were inward transfers and two occurred at home.

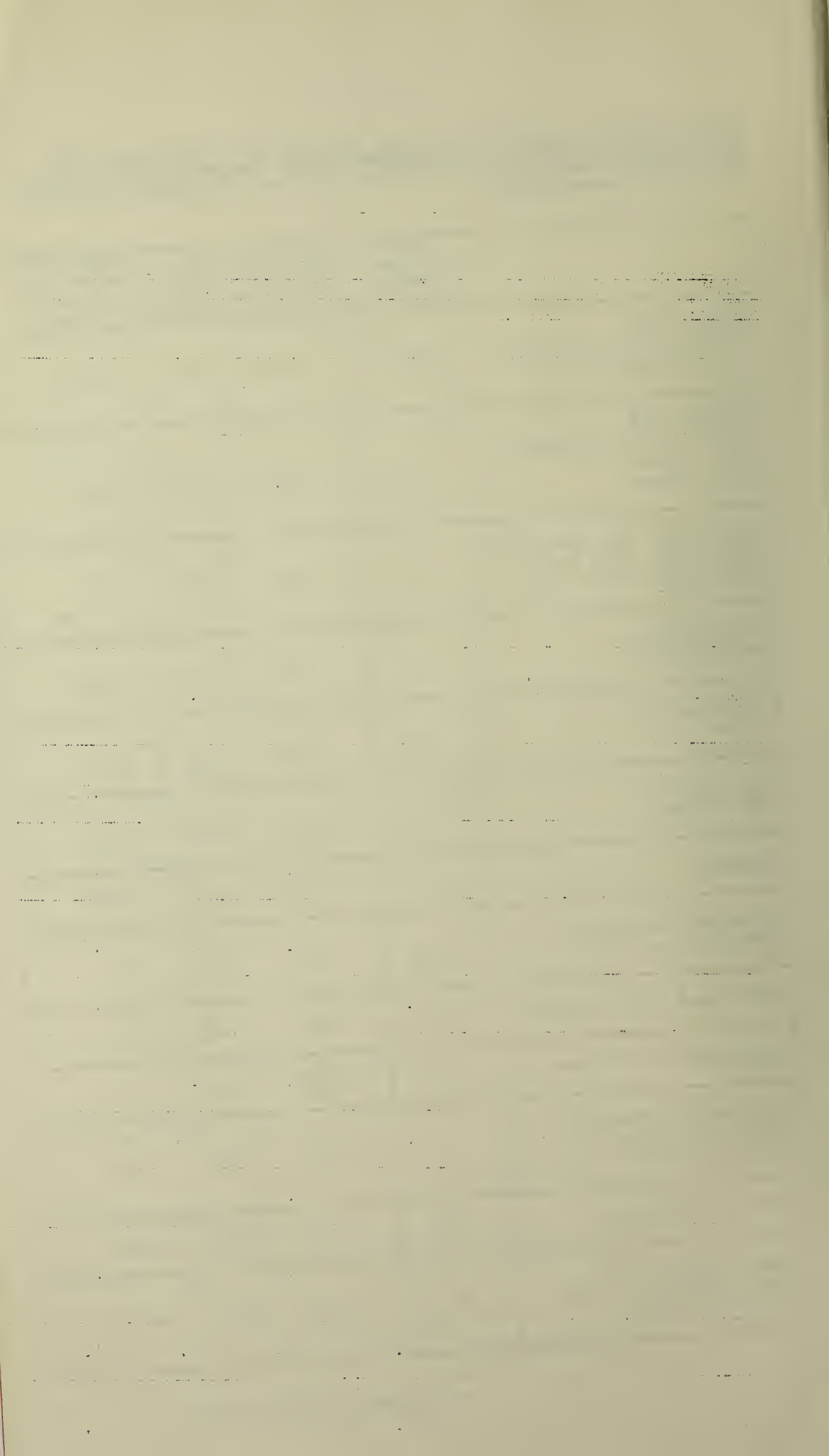




COMPARISON OF KNOTTINGLEY VITAL STATISTICS WITH OTHER WEST RIDING URBAN DISTRICTS, THE WEST RIDING ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY AND ENGLAND AND WALES.

	Knott ingley Urban District	Aggregate West Rid- ing Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County	England & Wales (pro visional figures).
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population)	20.5	14.8	15.3	15.0
DEATH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population) All Causes.	8.5	12.5	11.7	11.7
Infective and Para. Dis. excl. Tub. but incl. Syph. and other V.D.	-	0.06	0.07	*
Tuberculosis Respiratory	-	0.11	0.11	0.13
Tuberculosis Other	0.09	0.02	0.01	0.02
Tuberculosis All Forms	0.09	0.13	0.12	0.15
Cancer	1.41	2.03	1.90	2.06
Vascular Lesions of the nervous system	0.56	2.09	1.90	*
Heart and Circulatory	2.63	4.71	4.39	*
Respiratory Diseases	1.51	1.28	1.21	*
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 live and still births)	-	0.45	0.67	0.64
Infant Mortality	22.9	25.2	26.2	24.9
Still Births (per 1,000 live and still births)	18.0	26.4	26.4	23.1

\* figures not available.





P A R T   T W O .

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following Table shows the prevalence of infectious diseases, other than Tuberculosis, throughout the year.

T A B L E   I V .

	Jan/ Mar	Apr/ Jun	Jul/ Sep	Oct/ Dec	Total	Deaths	No. of cases admitted to hospital.
Measles	30	60	16	1	107	-	2
Scarlet Fever	4	6	3	9	22	-	18
Pneumonia	4	1	2	-	7	1	-
Whooping Cough	-	1	14	10	25	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	2	-	2	-	2
	38	68	37	20	163	1	23

Certain of the above figures call for comment.

Scarlet Fever.

The number of cases of scarlet fever reported during the year show an increase on those for last year from 10 to 22. Cases on the whole, though, are mild in character.

Diphtheria.

No case of diphtheria occurred during the year. 112 children under the age of five years received a full course of primary immunisation against the disease. In addition 3 children received a reinforcing injection.

The need for immunisation remains as great as ever, if this killing disease is to be kept at bay.



# TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table summarises particulars contained in the Register of tuberculous persons.

T A B L E V.

Number of Cases in Register:	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total In Reg.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
At the commencement of 1955	27	17	6	13	63
Notified for the first time during 1955	3	2	1	2	8
Restored to Register	-	2	-	-	2
Transfers - Inward	2	1	-	-	3
Removed during 1955	3	1	-	1	5
At end of 1955	29	21	7	14	71

The reasons for removal of cases from the Register are given in the following Table.

T A B L E VI.

Entries relating to:	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Persons who have died	-	-	-	1	1
Persons who have left the district	2	1	-	-	3
Persons recovered	1	-	-	-	1
	3	1	-	1	5

In the following Table new cases and mortality are classified according to age, sex and site of the disease.

T A B L E VII.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Under 15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Under 25	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 55	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Under 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3	2	1	2	-	-	-	1



B.C.G. Vaccination Against Tuberculosis.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis was offered to all children in the year of their 13th birthday. With the consent of the parents a test is performed to see if the child has already encountered the germ of Tuberculosis. If it has done so, no further action is taken, as it is assumed that the child is acquiring a natural immunity. If, however, the test indicate that the child has not encountered tubercle bacillus, then vaccination is carried out.

The age of 13 years has been chosen because at this age the natural resistance to the disease tends to drop and it is hoped to confer protection during the years of increased risk.

During 1955 the following work was undertaken in Knottingley:-

<u>No. of Consents</u> <u>Issued.</u>	<u>No. of Consents</u> <u>Received.</u>	<u>Mantoux</u> <u>Test.</u>	<u>Mantoux</u> <u>Negative.</u>	<u>Mantoux</u> <u>Positive.</u>
64	44	39	27	10

B.C.G. Vaccination.

27

National Assistance Act - Section 47.

It was not found necessary to deal with any patients under the above act.



Part III

C O U N T Y   C O U N C I L  
O F   T H E  
W E S T   R I D I N G   O F   Y O R K S H I R E

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DIVISION 12.

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Pontefract Municipal Borough  
Featherstone Urban District  
Knottingley Urban District  
Osgoldcross Rural District

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A N N U A L   R E P O R T  
O F   T H E  
D I V I S I O N A L   M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R  
1955

BY  
J.F. FRASER

M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.







Divisional Staff at 31.12.55.

Divisional Medical Officer.

J.F. FRASER, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

Assistant County Medical Officers &  
School Medical Officers.

G.M. Mayhall, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

J.C. White, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P., D.C.H.

Health Visitors and School Nurses.

Miss E.M. Atkinson	Miss M.H. Osborne
Mrs. P.M. Brice	Miss B.K. Porter
Mrs. E.A. Goodall	Miss H. Theobald
Miss B.N. Kennington	Mrs. M.K. Walsh

Assistant Health Visitors.

Miss L.O.I. Day	Mrs. J.K. Smith (Clinic Nurse)
Mrs. A. Williams	

Tuberculosis Health Visitor.

Mrs. E.W. Petch.

Midwives.

Miss K. Ault	Mrs. A. Pritchard
Mrs. A. Attack	Mrs. A.M. Randall
Mrs. I. Bushell	Miss C.A. Roberts
Mrs. E. Glover (rel)	Mrs. W. Tame
Mrs. B. Lister	Mrs. J.R. Wilford
Miss C. Norton	Miss M. Wright

Home Nurses.

Mrs. F.M. Ashworth	Miss E. Leach (relief)
Mrs. R.L. Copestake	Miss E. Lumley
Miss A. Elsley	Mrs. A. Moiser
Mrs. F. Green	

Home Nurse-Midwives.

Miss B.M. Butterworth Miss J. Redfearn

Mental Health Social Worker.

Mrs. A. Stell (Temporary)

Mental Health Home Teacher.

Mrs. G.J. Argile

Speech Therapist.

Mrs. Z. Statman

Duly Authorised Officer.

Mr. R.F.H. Battye

Senior Clerk.

Mr. W. Carver.



## INTRODUCTION

In this section is given a brief account of the services provided by the West Riding County Council as a whole, under Part III of the National Health Services Act.

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### Births.

The number of live births registered in the Divisional area during 1955 was 1015 (520 males and 495 females), an increase of 52 compared with the previous year.

The CRUDE BIRTH RATE, 17.8 per thousand of the estimated population compared with 17.3 for the previous year was well above the West Riding Administrative County rate of 15.3 and the England and Wales birth rate of 15.0.

#### Deaths.

The deaths assigned to the Divisional area after correction for transfers were 529 (289 males and 240 females), a decrease of 6 compared with 1954.

The CRUDE DEATH RATE from all causes was 9.3 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 9.6 for the previous year. Here again the death rate compares favourably with that for the West Riding Administrative Area which is 11.7 and for England and Wales, 11.7

#### Infant Mortality.

In 1955 the deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 30, a decrease of three compared with the previous year. The infant mortality rate was 29.6 as against 34.3 in the previous year.

#### Maternal Mortality.

It was pleasing to note that once again there were no maternal deaths in the Divisional area.

### MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

#### Domiciliary Midwifery.

Of the 1016 notified live births, 501 were delivered by domiciliary midwives, the private doctors being present in 57 of these cases.

#### Notifications.

The following notifications were received from midwives practicing in the division:

Death of Child	4
Still Births	7
Artificial Feeding	104
Liability to be a	4
Source of Infection	

#### Medical Assistance.

Medical aid notices sent in by midwives during 1955 numbered 115, all of these being domiciliary.



### Gas and Air Analgesia.

All the domiciliary midwives held the certificate in gas and air analgesia administration and were equipped with the necessary apparatus.

Gas and air analgesia only was given in 54 cases. Pethidine only was given in 67 cases, and gas and air and pethidine was given in 275 cases.

### Ante-Natal Clinics.

There are four Ante-Natal Clinics in the division which are held at Pontefract, Featherstone, Knottingley and Ferrybridge, and during the year 569 patients attended, of which 405 were new patients. The total number of attendances was 2,317.

At all of these clinics post-natal examinations are carried out and 147 patients were examined post-natally during the year.

### Relaxation Classes.

Relaxation classes for expectant mothers are held at the Pontefract and Featherstone Clinics.

These have continued to be well attended and it has been found necessary to increase the number of sessions at the Pontefract Clinic. The number of attendances at these clinics during the year was 599.

### Institutional Midwifery.

Patients from this division are admitted either to the Castleford Maternity Home or to the Southmoor Maternity Unit, Hemsworth.

No difficulty has been experienced regarding maternity accommodation, although it has not always been possible to secure admission to the hospital of the patient's choice. Due to travelling difficulties there is a preference for the Castleford Maternity Home, although our allocation of beds is much smaller than at Southmoor.

### CHILD WELFARE.

There are in the division seven Infant Welfare Centres, the clinics at Pontefract, Featherstone and Knottingley being held in county-owned premises, whilst the ones at Carleton, Ferrybridge, Streethouse and Beal are held in hired premises.

The clinic at Loscoe was closed at the end of the year due to the small number of patients attending.





The following proprietary preparations were available at cost price to all women attending the clinics:

Ostermilk	Virol
Trufood	Maltoline
Cow & Gate	Farex
Ovaltine	Scotts Twin Pack
Glucose 'D'	Robinson's Groats
Horlicks	Robinson's Patent Barley
Minadex	Colact
Lactagol	Robrex
Bemax	Robsoup
Cerex	Bovril Weaning Food
Trufood Cereal	Roboleine

The following were distributed free of charge:-

I.C.D. Tablets	Ferrous Sulphate Tablets
Viteolin Tablets	A & D Liquid
Vitamin 'C'	Lactation Tablets

I wish to express my thanks to the ladies of the Voluntary Committees at the clinics for all the work they have done during the year.

#### Premature Babies.

During the year 96 babies weighing 5½lbs or less were born in hospitals or nursing homes to mothers normally resident in the division and 27 were born at home.

#### SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

##### Medical Inspections.

The periodic medical examination of the four age groups, i.e. entrants (5 years +) second age group (7 years +) intermediates (10 years +) and leavers (14 years +) continued throughout the year at the 54 schools in the division.

Re-examinations of children who at previous periodic or special examinations had been found to have defects, were made at each school medical inspection. During the year 3,415 periodic inspections were carried out. In addition 1,731 special inspections and re-examinations were made. When it is considered that the school population is 10,000 it will be realised over half of all children at school were examined at one time or another during the year.

##### General Condition of Children.

All pupils at routine medical inspections are classified as to their general condition at the time of examination and are classified as follows: (a) those better than normal, (b) normal (c) below normal. In this area 52.7% were classified (a), 43.72% (b), and only 3.51% (c).

##### Uncleanliness.

During the year Health Visitors and School Nurses made 17,608 examinations of children in schools. Of these 581 individual children were found to be infested.





## SPECIAL CLINICS

### Ophthalmic Clinics.

Mr. S.K. Sledge holds one session per week at the Pontefract Clinic at which children from all areas of the division attend. Due to the large numbers of children awaiting examination it has been necessary on occasions to hold additional sessions which have been held by Dr. J.V. Kirkwood, and during the year 1,183 children were examined. Of these, 460 were prescribed glasses.

### Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics.

Mr. K.M. Mayall holds fortnightly sessions at the Headlands Road Clinic for children from this division. Due to the large waiting list Mr. Mayall has very kindly undertaken additional sessions during the year and in all 25 sessions have been held. The total number of children seen by Mr. Mayall during the year was 188 and the total number of attendances made was 294.

### Orthopaedic Clinics.

Mr. A.J.S. Bell-Tawse, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon holds a monthly clinic at the Headlands Road Clinic, and during the year 10 sessions were held. 137 children were seen at these clinics and the total number of attendances made was 180.

### Child Guidance Treatment.

Dr. M.M. MacTaggart, Educational Psychologist holds Child Guidance Clinics at the County Health Department, Wakefield for children from this area, and during the year 7 new cases were seen, whilst 13 children continued attendance from the previous year. The total number of attendances made was 47.

### Ultra Violet Ray Treatment.

During the winter months Ultra Violet Ray treatment sessions are held twice weekly at the Headlands Road Clinic, Pontefract and these are well attended.

### Speech Therapy.

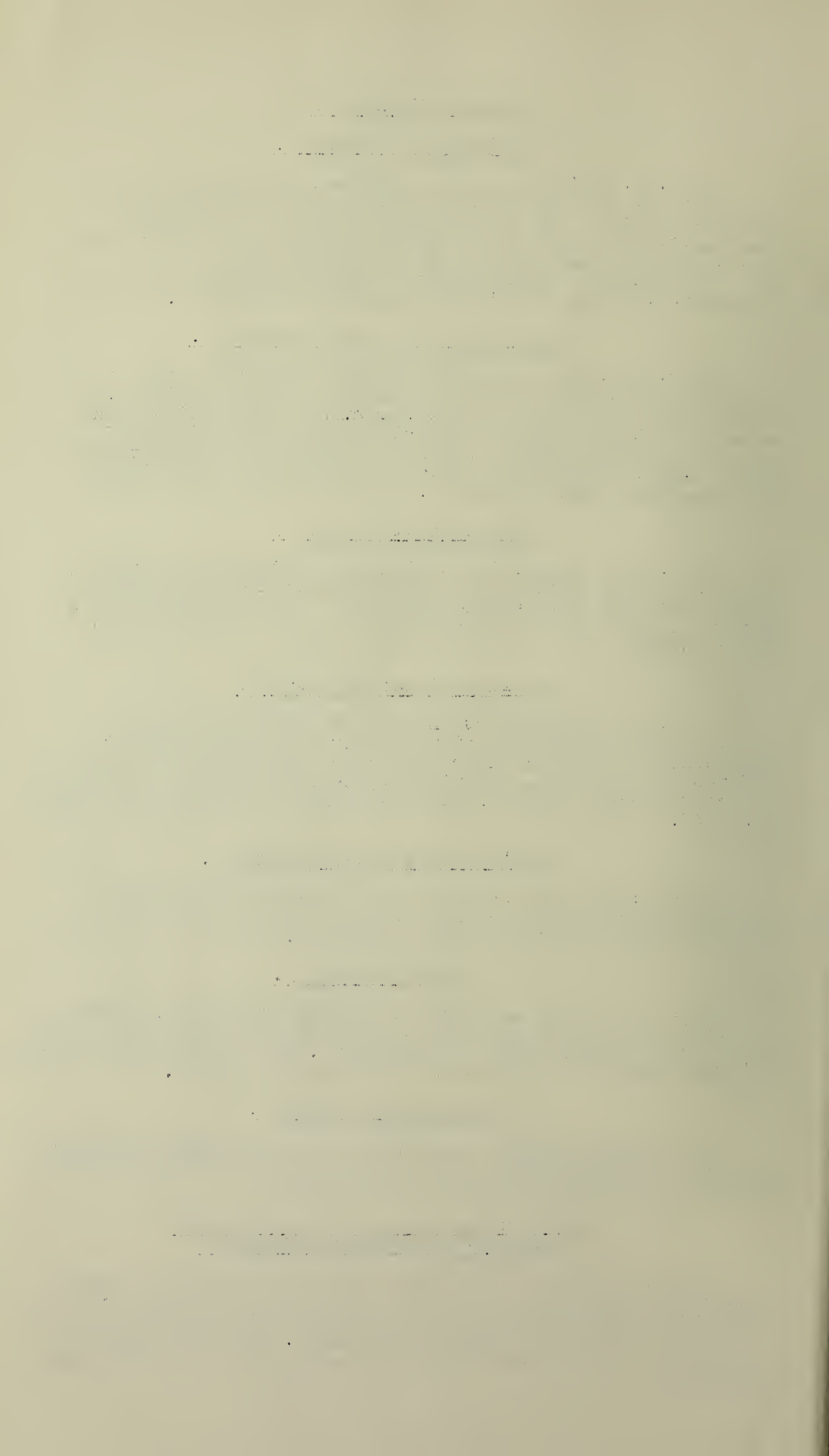
Mrs. Z. Statman was appointed Speech Therapist in this division on the 19th September, 1955, and from that date until the end of the year held 42 sessions. 12 new cases were treated, together with 30 children from the previous year.

### Handicapped Pupils.

The regular medical examination of handicapped children continued during the year and where necessary, recommendations were made for placement in Special Schools.

### Medical Examination of Teachers and Entrants to Training College.

It is the duty of the School Medical Officer to examine candidates applying for entry to training colleges for the purpose of satisfying the college authorities of their fitness to follow a course of teacher training. During the year 35 candidates were examined and where necessary x-ray examination arranged.



In the case of entrants to the teaching profession,  
6 examinations were made.

HEALTH VISITING.

During the year the following number of visits were made  
by Health Visitors in the Division:

<u>No. of Children under 5 years of age visited during the year.</u>	3708
Total visits made to expectant mothers	61
Total visits made to children under 1 year of age	6862
Total visits to children aged 1 and under 2 years	4140
Total visits to children aged 2 but under 5 years	5465
Total visits to tuberculous households	1900
Total families or households visited	3288
Other cases visited	5099



### HOME NURSING.

During the year 21,604 visits were paid by Home Nurses compared with 24,218 in the previous year. This despite the fact that during the larger part of the year the service was under-staffed. The number of cases attended and visits made are shown below:--

Classification.	No. of cases attended by Home Nurses during the year.	No. of visits paid by Home Nurses during the year.
(1) Medical	603	21604
(2) Surgical	224	4977
(3) Infectious Diseases.	3	8
(4) Tuberculosis	48	1125
(5) Maternal complications	4	17
<u>TOTALS.</u>	882	27731
Patients included in above who were aged 65 or over at the time of the first visit during the year.	376	16358
Children included in above who were under 5 years of age at the time of the first visit during the year.	58	608
Patients included in above who have had more than 24 visits during the year	161	11413

### HOME HELP SERVICE.

The home help service is provided under the National Health Act 1946. Section 29 of the act stipulates the class of case for which provision of a Home Help can be made. These are as follows:

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| (a) Ill      | (d) Expectant Mother                        |
| (b) Lying-in | (e) Mental Defective                        |
| (c) Aged     | (f) A child not over compulsory school age. |

Before a Home Help can be provided, a form of application must be signed by the head of the household on which he undertakes either to pay the whole cost of the service, or to give a statement of his income and agree to pay the assessed charge according to the County Council Scheme.





Under no circumstances can a Home Help be used as a sitter-in and the amount of assistance which a patient is granted is related strictly to the amount of domestic work which is required to be done.

The authorised establishment of Home Helps in this division was decreased from 23 to 22 on the 1st May, 1955, and during the year the following assistance was given:-

Authorised Divisional Establishment.

(i) Basic	23/22
(ii) From Reserve Pool	-
(iii) TOTAL	23/22

No. of Domestic Helps employed at 31st December.

(i) Whole-time	Nil
(ii) Part-time	40
(iii) Total	40

Cases provided with Domestic Help during the year ended 31st December.

	<u>No. of Cases.</u>	<u>Hours Employed</u>
(i) Maternity (including expectant mothers)	58	5,388
(ii) Tuberculosis	4	836
(iii) Chronic sick - (a) Aged 65+	155	36634
(b) Under 65	58	6862
(iv) Others	-	-
TOTALS.	<u>275</u>	<u>49720</u>

Number of Home Helps that could have been employed full-time. 21.3

MENTAL HEALTH.

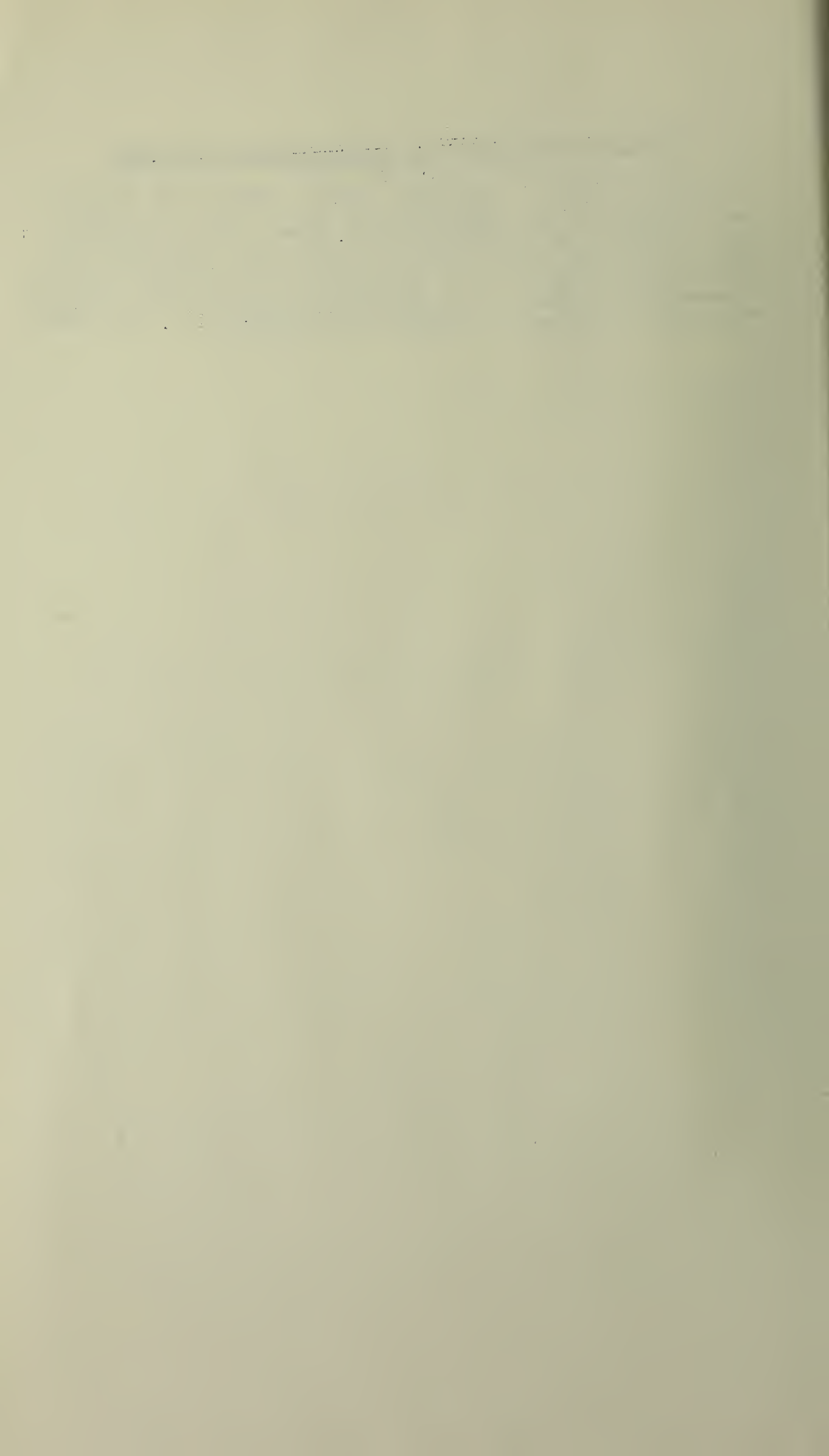
The mental health work in the division consists mainly of the supervision of defectives under Voluntary and Statutory Supervision, and in the provision of reports on home conditions to Hospital Management Committees. The nearest Occupation Centre to this area is at Castleford and at the end of the year 15 children from this area were attending there. For the children who are considered unsuitable for the Occupation Centre, group training classes are held twice weekly at the Pontefract, Featherstone and Knottingley Clinics, where the Home Teacher, Mrs. Argile provides training in handicrafts of various sorts.





### MEDICAL EXAMINATION FOR SUPERANNUATION PURPOSES.

New entrants to the County Council Service are required to undergo a medical examination to see if they are suitable for admission to the Superannuation Scheme, and during the year I examined 70 candidates. In addition 5 members of the County Staff resident in the Divisional area who had been off duty through sickness for a considerable period were examined to ascertain whether or not they were incapable of continuing employment by reason of permanent ill-health.



KNOTTINGLEY URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR  
1955.

BY  
L. BARBER,  
M.S.I.A.



KNOTTINGLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in presenting to you my first Annual Report on the work of the Public Health and Cleansing Department for the year 1955.

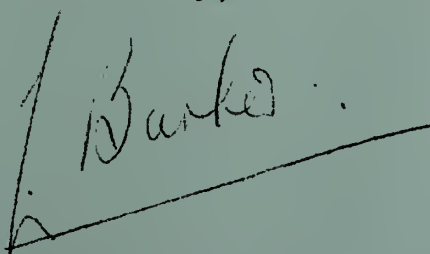
No period in a Sanitary Inspector's life can be said to be devoid of incident and interest and the past year has been no exception. Local Authorities have submitted their plans for Slum Clearance and Redevelopment and controversy has raged over the new Food and Drugs Act, the Food Hygiene Regulations and the Clean Air Act. The two former came into force in 1956 and the latter is still suffering it's birth pangs.

Slum Clearance is now being somewhat hampered by various financial restrictions and housing standards, perhaps justifiably but nontheless regrettably, have declined in order to produce houses at reasonable rents. In view of these difficulties I wonder, would it not be expedient and economic for the Local Authority to purchase modernised sound terraced property which at present lacks only the amenities now regarded as essential to everyday life.

I cannot end without a word of thanks to the two Chairmen of Public Health Committee who supported me so well in my first year of office and to the other members of the Council and staff, in particular my clerk Miss M. Smith, for the invaluable help and co-operation I have always received from them.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

  
Sanitary Inspector.

Public Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
Knottingley  
Yorks.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Section 1. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supplies.

The water supply for the district is purchased in bulk from Pontefract County Borough and is distributed by the Knottingley Urban District Council.

The water is pumped from three boreholes outside the area and is chlorinated before use. No interruption or diminution in supply has been apparent during the year and the quality has been consistently good.

A total of 3360 houses are supplied from the mains and only 10 dwellinghouses are not connected. Attempts are being made to reduce this number still further.

Samples of both mains and private supplies have been taken for Bacteriological examination and these have proved to be satisfactory in each case.

A copy of the Public Analyst's Report on a Chemical Examination of the water supply is appended below.

Sample of Mains Water.

Parts per million

Total Solids .....	460
Chloride.....	16
Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub> .....	138
Total Hardness.....	200
Permanent Hardness.....	62
Temporary Hardness.....	138
Lead, Copper, Zinc.....	Nil
Iron.....	0.16
Free Ammonia.....	0.01
Albuminoid Ammonia.....	0.01
Nitrous Nitrogen.....	Nil
Nitric Nitrogen.....	9.45
pH.....	7.4

This water is of good organic purity

(Signed) F.W.M. Jaffe.

Richardson and Jaffe.

Sanitary Accommodation and Sewage Disposal.

Water borne sanitation is available to over 99% of the properties in the Urban District. Some few houses are still using cesspools where the sewer is available but negotiations are in hand to abolish these cesspools.

An attempt is also being made to abolish privies and privy middens in those properties where water is available by offering grants under the Public Health Act 1936 and, where possible, under the Housing Act 1949. It is hoped that progress along these lines can be reported next year.

The whole of the Knottingley sewage is treated in one or other of the Council's two sewage works, both of which are overloaded. The Council's plans for a new, modern works on the Marsh Lane site



are maturing slowly despite initial difficulties and it is to be hoped that progress will not be stopped by the "Credit Squeeze" currently affecting so much Local Government spending.

#### Infectious Diseases.

Each case of Infectious Disease or death due to Infectious Disease was visited and, where necessary or upon request, terminal disinfection was carried out. The Council still issues disinfectant free to all ratepayers and supplies can be obtained on request from the Town Hall.

#### Dirty and Verminous Premises.

The main infestations dealt with during the year were of Cockroaches and Ants. Both these insects can be cleared from infested premises but rarely can this be achieved by one treatment only. For this reason supplies of Chlordane, D.D.T. and Gammexane are issued to householders when required with full instructions as to their proper usage.

Reports received from householders show that the insecticides are wholly successful and only rarely is it necessary for the Public Health Department to carry out "Mopping up" operations to complete the disinfection.

In the case of bed-bugs, all disinfections are carried out by personnel of the Public Health Department.

I give below a summary of disinfection carried out at dwelling-houses by this department.

Infestation.	No. Treated.	Reinfestations.
Bed-bugs.	4	-
Cockroaches.	6	1
Ants.	12	4
Wood Beetles.	4	1

#### Moveable Dwellings.

During 1955 there was some increase in the number of caravan stationed in the district. This was mainly due to an influx of skilled workers engaged on the construction of Ferrybridge "B" power station.

The one licensed site in the district became overcrowded in comparison with the amenities available and various unlicensed sites were occupied. Few of these sites were suitable for permanent use and licenses could not be granted except for short periods whilst the occupiers sought better sites. The majority of these dwellings are now on the extended licensed site and the position been eased.

#### Atmospheric Pollution.

No. of smoke observations of 30 minutes duration	11
No. of Intimation Notices served	1
No. of Complaints received.	18
No. of Works visited.	7

Knottingley is a highly industrialised area with a wide variety of industries within its boundaries. The complaints shown above have ranged from obnoxious smells from chemical plants to smoke nuisance from a sweet factory.

All complaints have been investigated and the cause remedied where possible. The only steam raising plant found to be consistently omitting smoke in excess of Bye-law standard has been equipped with a mechanical stoking plant and is now giving satisfactory service.

The overall pollution problem in Knottingley is not great by present-day standards but more care will have to be taken to prevent emission of grit from iron foundries and chemical pollutants from and Chemical and By-products plants in the area.

The prevailing winds protect Ferrybridge from the full effects of grit and sulphur emission from the Generating Station but the winds are contrary enough to keep this problem constantly in our minds. There is also, it appears, some reason to suspect neighbouring collieries of not paying quite enough attention to the soot and grit problem.

Two sets of pollution measurement apparatus were set up in the district during the year and I give below the average monthly pollution figures together with figures for other towns by way of comparison. I am indebted to the Yorkshire Division of the Central Electricity Authority for this information.

Site.	Deposits per square mile (Tons.)			Mgs SO <sub>3</sub> per day. SULPHUR
	Soluble	Insoluble	Total	
Holmfields.	5.03	13.08	18.11	0.809
Warren Avenue.	4.22	5.52	9.74	1.548
DONCASTER	N.A.	6.2	N.A.	1.75
CASTLEFORD	N.A.	9.7	N.A.	2.95
Average of 6 sites around Power Station	4.69	8.24	12.93	1.30

#### Rodent Control.

Rodent Control in the Urban District is carried out by a trained operator on a part-time basis.

During the year under review however the Council were without an operator for approximately three months and during this period only urgent complaints could be dealt with. An operator was then trained and he was able to carry out the annual test baiting and fewer maintenance treatments but no survey work was possible. Later in the year the work of the department was slightly re-arranged and both survey and treatment are now being carried out satisfactorily.

The rodent population has shown no signs of increasing and only one major infestation was discovered during the year.

I give below a copy of the report covering 1st April, 1955 to 1st March, 1956, which was rendered to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food.

RODENT CONTROL

REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31st MARCH, 1956.

NAME OF LOCAL AUTHORITY: Knottingley Urban District Council

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				(5) Agri- cult- ure
	(1) Local Auth.	(2) Dwelling Houses.	(3) All other inc. bus- iness premises	(4) Tot. of cols. 1, 2 & 3	
1. No. of properties in Local Auth. District (Notes 1 and 2)	9	3360	277	3646	15
2. No. of properties inspected as result of					
(a) Notification	-	41	4	45	-
(b) Survey under Act	9	32	4	45	-
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	39	10	49	-
3. Tot. inspections carried out incl. re-inspections. (To be completed only if figures are available)	42	286	63	391	-
4. No. of properties inspected in Sec. II found to be infested by					
a. Rats Major	1	-	-	1	-
Minor	3	50	5	58	-
b. Mice Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	6	3	9	-
5. No. of infested props. in Sec. IV) treated by L.A. (Figs. should not exceed those at Sec. IV)	4	56	8	68	-
6. Tot. treatments carried out incl. re-treatments (To be completed only if figures available)	8	56	11	75	-
7. No. of notices served under Sec. 4 of Act:					
(a) Treatment	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Structural Work (i.e. proofing)	-	-	1	1	-
8. No. of cases in which default action was taken following issue of notice under Sec. 4 of the Act	-	-	-	-	-
9. Legal Proceedings	-	-	-	-	-
10 No. of Block control schemes carried out		2	2		



Factories Acts 1937 and 1948.

I give below a copy of the return made to the Ministry of Labour and National Service which summarises the visits made and defects found during the year under review.

It should be noted that these are purely visits made under the Factories Acts and do not include visits made for other purposes, e.g. Rodent Control, Fire Escape, etc.

One factory only was reported by Her Majesty's Inspector of Factories as having insufficient sanitary conveniences and these are being provided but as no sewer is available, a cesspool is being constructed by the firm concerned.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

PART I OF THE ACT

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	No. on Reg.	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	5	1	-
2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	40	23	1	-
3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworker's premises)	-	-	-	-
	46	28	2	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred.		No. of cases in which prosecutions institut.
			To H.M. Inspect.	By H.M. Inspect.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
a) Insufficient	1	-	-	1	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
	5	3	-	1	-

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Section 2. HOUSING.

General.

The demand for new housing locally shows very little signs of easing but the emphasis of the demand tends to be moving from the subtenant to the poorly housed tenant.

This has apparently been a national change and during the year Local Authorities have been submitting to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government their plans for slum clearance to meet this demand.

Whether, in view of the prevailing economic conditions, these plans can be adhered to or even reasonably approached is just one more of the uncertainties which time alone can determine.

The difficulties inherent in moving persons from low to highly rented dwellings are too well known to require reiteration and some form of rent equalisation scheme appears to be inevitable if slum clearance is to be a fact and not merely a catchword.

New Houses.

The number of Council houses completed during the year fell by almost 50% as compared with 1954, and only 9 houses were built privately as against 11 last year.

Private builders have not as yet taken up the challenge in this district and the outlook, except for families living in scheduled slum clearance property, is decidedly bleak.

The Knottingley Urban District provides employment for many hundreds of people living outside it's boundaries. Great benefits could accrue to employers, employees and local authorities if these people, many of them on our housing lists, could be offered accommodation within those boundaries.

Improvement Grants. Housing Act 1949.

Owners, and more particularly owner-occupiers, are slowly beginning to see the advantages of the Improvement Grant and this year the number of grants made has increased from 19 to 45.

A number of houses exist in Knottingley and Ferrybridge which are structurally sound but lacking in amenities and one wonders from time to time whether this may not be a partial answer to the problem of low cost Local Authority housing. A Local Authority, having purchased this class of property, is just as eligible for grant aid as a private landlord. It has been done experimentally and a lead has been given. Can we do it?

Overcrowding.

No case of statutory overcrowding has been brought to the notice of the Public Health Department during the year. From this one can infer that overcrowding in it's legal sense is practically non-existent.

Overcrowding in it's wider sense with it's attendant dangers to health and morals certainly is not non-existent and causes much heated debate in Council chambers. Surely the time is now drawing near when the basis of Statutory Overcrowding can be re-examined.

Unfit Houses.

During the year 20 Demolition Orders were made and 2 Closing Orders which were later revoked and Demolition Orders made in their stead. Twelve houses were demolished and the sites cleared.

Unfit Houses cont.

This does not cover the whole of the work done in respect of unfit and substandard housing. The whole of the old town centre is being replanned and redeveloped and to ensure that this is done in an orderly fashion houses and land are being purchased by negotiation whenever the opportunity presents itself. The houses thus purchased are all typical ripe for demolition properties and the tenants will be rehoused and the sites cleared for rebuilding.

A return was made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government during the year setting out our programme for slum clearance and based on the Ministry's recommendations. A total of 373 houses were to be demolished at a rate of approximately 50 per year and of these 134 houses are contained in the central area which is to be redeveloped as a whole.

The plans for the first phase of this scheme are well advanced and some very real progress should be apparent by the time this report is in print.

HOUSING STATISTICS 1955.

Number of dwellinghouses in District.....3370.....

Number of back-to-back houses included in above .24.(approx).

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts ...39.....

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....138.....

(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses(included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations ...Nil.....

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....Nil.....

(3) Number of dwellinghouses needing further action:-

(a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....10.....

(b) Number (excluding those in subhead (3) (a) above), found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation .....25.....

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

(a) Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .....26.....

(b) Number of defective dwellinghouses(excluding those shown in (a) above) in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action .....3.....



HOUSING STATISTICS 1955(cont.)

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 16, Housing Act, 1936:-

- (1). Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs to be done.  
.....Nil.....
- (2). Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
  - (a) By owners.....Nil.....
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners...1.....

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1). Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied
- (2). Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-<sup>4</sup>
  - (a). By owners.....4.....
  - (b). By Local Authority in default of owners...Nil...

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1). Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwellinghouses unfit for habitation.....6.....
- (2). Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....20.....
- (3). Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....12.....
- (4). Any action under Sections 10 and 11 of the Local Government(Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953?  
If so, what?.....Nil.....

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1). Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.  
...2(later.revoked).....
- (2). Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit  
.....Nil.....

E. Proceedings under Part III of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1). Number of Clearance Areas represented during the year.  
.....Nil.....
- (2). Number of houses included in those areas.  
.....Nil.....
- (3). Number of persons to be displaced.....Nil.....
- (4). Action taken during the year in respect of Clearance Areas:-
  - (a). by Clearance Orders, number made....None.....
  - (b). by Compulsory Purchase Orders, number made  
.....None.....
- (5). Number of houses in Clearance Areas demolished during the year.....None.....
- (6). Number of persons re-housed from houses demolished during the year.....None.....

4. Housing act, 1936-- Part IV- Overcrowding.

There are no relevant figures available.



HOUSING STATISTICS (cont).

New Houses.

Number of new houses provided during the year:-

By the Local Authority:- Permanent type...88.....  
Temporary type..None.....

By Private Enterprise.....9.....

Housing Act, 1949.

Section 4 - Any action in connection with advances for purpose of increasing housing accommodation?.....Nil.....

Housing Act, 1949, as amended by Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Grants to persons other than local authorities for improvement of housing accommodation. Any action during the year?

Grants were made in respect of 45 separate dwellings.....

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

SECTION 3. FOOD INSPECTION AND CONTROL.

Slaughter-houses.

In the early part of the year the final building operations on slaughter-houses were completed and the district is now served by seven licenced slaughter-houses. One of these is used solely for the slaughter of horses for human consumption and was in fact practically unused.

Owing to the closing of a horse slaughter-house elsewhere, slaughtering recommenced in the last days of the year and has continued to date.

All the slaughter-houses now comprise lairage, slaughter-hall, and cooling rooms. Washing facilities with hot and cold water have been installed and some could well serve as models to less enlightened butchers.

Meat Inspection.

When I assumed office in February, the butchers generally were willing to co-operate in solving the vexed question of when to inspect the slaughtered animals. This problem has, I think now been overcome and with the exception of Bank Holiday periods and the very infrequent emergency slaughter, overtime on meat inspection has been abolished. Inspection is still 100% and in this connection I must thank the Chief Sanitary Inspectors of Castleford Municipal Borough and Osgoldcross Rural District Council for their kind co-operation in ensuring that this vital service is carried on in my absence.

The tables given below indicate the extent and nature of this important, interesting and, unfortunately, time-devouring task in the course of which 759 visits were made to slaughter-houses.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses	Total
No. killed	574	114	8	1352	624	6	2678
No. inspected	574	114	8	1352	624	6	2678
<u>All diseases except T.B. &amp; Cysticerci</u>							
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Carcase of which some part or or- gan was condemned	31	5	-	8	4	2	50
Percentage of no. inspected affected with disease other than T.B. and cysticerci	5.4	4.28	-	0.59	0.64	33.33	

Meat Inspection Table (cont.)

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses	Total.
<u>Tuberculosis</u> <u>only:</u>							
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Carcase of which some part or or- gan was condemned	32	26	-	-	9	-	67
Percentage of no. inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.75	22.8	-	-	1.4	-	
<u>Cysticercosis</u> Carcase of which some part or or- gan was condemned	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Carcases submit- ted to treatment by refrigeration	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Generalised and totally cond- emned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Carcases condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Bullock Carcase and all organs.....Generalised Tuberculosis.  
Pig " " .....Suffocation.  
Sheep " " .....Emaciation and Oedema.

Organs and part carcasses being affected by Tuberculosis.

Bovine.

Head and Tongue	35	Livers	4
Kidneys	2	Briskets	1
Lungs	22	Udders	1
Mesenteries	2	Forequarter	1

Pigs.

Heads 9

Organs and part carcasses being affected by other diseases.

Bovine.

Head and Tongue	7	Hearts	5
Livers	31	Kidneys	2
Briskets	1	Udders	1
Spleen	1	Skirts	5

Pigs.

Livers 2

Sheep.

Lungs	4	Livers	3
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Horses

Livers 2

Total weight of condemned meat = .1 Ton. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$  cwt.

## Food Inspection.

It is often forgotten that food other than meat is also inspected by the Sanitary Inspector in the course of his duties. During the year a quantity of food was surrendered by local traders but the advent of refrigeration, better sterilisation of tinned goods etc. makes this work less onerous and the amounts surrendered grow smaller each year.

The following table shows the amounts surrendered during 1955.

### Food Surrendered as Unfit for human Consumption.

Coffee	3 bottles	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Sauce	3 "	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Beans	3 tins	4	
Peas	1 tin	1	
Soup	4 tins	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Cheese	-	61	
Fruit		2	
Tinned Meats		181	
Sausage		60	
Preserves		38	
Tinned Fish		14	
Tinned Fruit		30	
Tomatoes		58	
Total weight condemned		511 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Tinned Milks		55	pints

## Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1949/1954.

I give below a list of licences issued by the Local Authority under the above Regulations and in force in 1955.

### Dealers

Pasteurised	8
Sterilised	21
Tuberculin Tested	6
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	2

### Supplementary

Pasteurised	3
Sterilised	2
Tuberculin Tested	2
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	-

A total of 10 milk samples were taken for Bacteriological Examination, all of which were satisfactory.

## Ice Cream.

There are 21 premises registered for the storage and sale of Ice-cream and one registered manufacturer in the district.

Samples have been taken of all makes of Ice-cream sold in the district and all are consistently good with one exception. Efforts are being made to discover and eliminate the contaminating source in this case.

## Food Hawkers.

A start has been made on the inspection and registration of Food Hawkers. Hot water, sink, soap and towels are being required in the vehicle before registration and so far the results are encouraging.



Food Premises.

I give below a list of food premises with the district

Butchers	10
Cafes	5
Fish & Chip Shops	14
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1
Ice Cream Retailers	21
Food Preparing Premises	9
Bakehouses	2
Slaughterhouses	7
Clubs & Licenced Premises	30
Other Food Shops	62

The general standard of hygiene, above which, fortunately, some enlightened traders have risen, is not particularly high.

The enforcement of the Food Hygiene Regulations is not going to be an easy task, particularly in view of the fact that the tenant is now responsible for both structure and fittings of the shop and I am afraid that real hardship may be caused to some small general shop keepers if too high a standard is set from the beginning.

Everyone agrees upon the necessity for the Regulations, but no one wants to pay for the requirements of the Regulations, and now that credit is somewhat restricted the tact and temper of both Inspector and trader may well be strained to even greater limits.

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

SECTION 4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Council are responsible for the collection and disposal of domestic refuse throughout the district. With the exception of a few properties in the outlying, unsewered parts of the district 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  cu.ft B.S.S. dustbins are in general use. With bins of this size an efficient and regular collection must be maintained and I must express my thanks to the Public Cleansing employees for their willingness and, in fact, determination to maintain at all costs a regular weekly collection. No praise is too high for the way these men tackle an uncongenial job in a consistently cheerful manner.

Refuse Collection.

A team of two drivers and six loaders using two Austin 5 ton side loaders carry out refuse collection. Of the vehicles one is nine years old and one is three years old.

Maintenance of these vehicles has from time to time presented problems but with the acquisition of greasing plant, tools and certain small items of equipment the majority of maintenance and repair is now carried out by the drivers. This has resulted in regular maintenance, earlier diagnosis and remedy of mechanical troubles, less lost time and the saving of public money on large repair bills.

I give below a summary of work carried out by these vehicles.

No. of dustbins emptied weekly	3445
No. of ashpits	8
No. of privy middens	17
No. of pail closets	15
No. of loads per vehicle per week	16
Approximate annual tonnage collected	3350

Refuse Disposal.

All refuse collected by the Council's vehicles is disposed of by Controlled Tipping at the Headlands Tip in the centre of the town. During my first months of office large numbers of complaints were received about rodent and vermin infestation of this tip. By dint of regular baiting and spraying of the tip these complaints have been completely stopped. A good and adequate supply of inert covering material has been made available at no cost to the Council and the Tip is now in good condition to the evident dismay of certain budding big game hunters whose Sunday sport has now ended.

One man is employed on the tip and he now salvages all saleable materials which are disposed of to the mutual profit of the workmen and the Rate Fund.

Sewerage and Cesspools.

One Eagle Cesspool/Gully Emptier on an Austin 5 Ton Chassis is used for emptying the cesspools in use in the district. The number is tending to remain static because as new cesspools are brought into use through privy conversions others are abolished and the drains connected to sewers.

The crew of a driver and mate are necessarily jacks of all trades and their duties consist of cesspool emptying, road gully cleansing, sewer and drain cleansing and bus shelter cleansing and the flushing and emptying of settling tanks at the Council's two sewage works. For a short time during the year the driver also carried out Rodent Control duties, but fortunately the situation improved and this duty was thankfully relinquished.

PUBLIC CLEANSING (cont.)

Salvage.

In the latter part of the year a salvage collection and disposal scheme was tried out with immediate success. Both the workmen and the local traders and businessmen co-operated extremely well and the initial success augurs well for the future provided that my warnings, given before the scheme went into operation, are borne in mind.

The market for salvaged materials of all kinds is the most fickle of all as most Cleansing Superintendents know by bitter experience. Demand appears to vary in inverse proportion to supply and the more successful ones collections are the less one can expect to receive for the materials. It is many years since I first read that after succumbing to nation wide propaganda to collect waste paper the author was left with practically all he had collected and his vehicles had been forced from their garages by the accumulation. No one likes to be bitten twice by the same dog and this should be borne in mind by both Planners and Publicity Officers.

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PART FIVE.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

SUMMARY OF VISITS & INSPECTIONS 1955

Accumulations.	.....	16
Canal boats.	.....	6
Cesspools.	.....	35
Drainage. Inspections	.....	58
Tests	.....	23
Privy conversions.	.....	14
Factories.	.....	28
Licensed premises.	.....	6
Nuisances.	.....	167
Piggeries & stables.	.....	24
Refuse collection.	.....	83
disposal.	.....	45
Rodent control.	.....	136
Schools.	.....	14
Smoke observations.	.....	11
Smoke visits. (Boiler plant) ...	.....	18
Moveable dwellings.	.....	81
Water supplies.	.....	14
Sampling.	.....	23
Shops Act inspections.	.....	5
Butchers.	.....	15
Grocers.	.....	10
Fried fish shops.	.....	12
Other food shops.	.....	8
Canteens.	.....	7
Ice-cream premises.	.....	21
Food preparing premises.	.....	30
Bakehouses.	.....	16
Milk distributors.	.....	11
Hawkers.	.....	11
Meat inspection.	.....	759
Slaughterhouses (other than for meat inspection)	.....	29
Food inspection.	.....	12
Houses inspected.	.....	153
Revisits.	.....	138
Unfit houses. ( visits )	.....	182
Infectious disease.	.....	25
Dirty & verminous premises.	.....	41
Overcrowding.	.....	10
Total .		2297

SUMMARY OF NOTICES 1955.

<u>Informal.</u>	<u>Served.</u>	<u>Complied with.</u>
Public Health Act. 1936.	78	69
Housing Act. 1936.	2	9
Food & Drugs Act. 1938.	8	9
Factories Act. 1937.	1	1
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act. 1949.	1	1
<u>Statutory.</u>		
Public Health Act. 1936.	8	10
Housing Act. 1936.	-	1

SUMMARY OF REPAIRS & IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED 1955.

Exterior.

Walls. pointed	14
rendered	8
Eaves gutters. repaired	11
Fall pipes. renewed	3
Drains. relaid	7
cleansed	33
Cesspools. repaired	2
abolished	2
Roofs. repaired.	15
Water closets. repaired	11
renewed	4
Doors & windows. repaired	15
Dustbins. renewed	20
Smoke nuisnace. abated	1

Interior.

Plaster. walls	23
ceilings	10
Ranges. repaired	8
Floors. repaired	13
Sinks. renewed	6
Handrails. provided	4
Waste pipes. renewed	3
Food store. provided	1
Water pipes. repaired	3

Food Premises.

Hot water. provided	10
Soap & towels. provided	8
Sinks. provided	6
Preparation rooms. provided	1
Food store. provided	2
ratproofed	1
Food shops. decorated	7

